Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Dodge Charger R/T Incorporates Integrated Compressed Natural Gas Storage System

Background

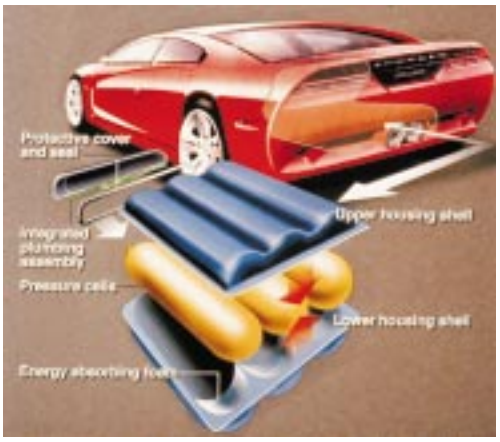
The U.S. Department of Energy is working with DaimlerChrysler, Johns Hopkins University, and Lincoln Composites to develop a compressed natural gas (CNG) storage tank that meets demanding automotive requirements. These requirements include: enough capacity to permit a normal driving range, structural integrity to withstand crashes without leaking, geometry that allows its placement into a vehicle without reducing cargo or passenger space, and a design that can be mass produced and is cost-effective.

Accomplishments

- The CNG-powered Dodge Charger R/T has a range of 300 miles. The flat, oblong shape of the tank provided the breakthrough in packaging that permitted installation without compromising space in the trunk or passenger compartment.
- Cost of the CNG tank has gone from $5,000, five years ago, to $2,500 today. In some cases, the differential between the $2,500 cost of the CNG tank and the $50-100 cost for a conventional tank can be offset by Federal and state incentives.

Benefits

- The Dodge Charger R/T meets the California Air Resources Board ultralow-emission-vehicle standard.
- Carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by up to 25%.



1999 Dodge Charger R/T Concept Car with CNG Storage System

Future Activities

- Extend CNG technologies for automobiles to light trucks and heavy vehicles.

Partners in Success

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Johns Hopkins University
Lincoln Composites

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OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES

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